

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, lines 4-6, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

The invention relates to a method for producing a thermoplastic board comprising at least one smooth side edge ~~with the features of the main subject of claim 1.~~

On page 2, after line 9, please add the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, lines 10-19, please amend the paragraphs to read as follows:

~~Thus, the objective arises of improving a~~ The principal objective of the invention is to improve the method for the extrusion of a thermoplastic board, in particular of an integral foam board, of the type described above such that

the boards are sealed and/or smoothed on at least one side edge.

This objective is achieved in that, following calibration, the side edge of the web is heated to at least the melting temperature while the peripheral surface zones are kept at a temperature below the softening temperature by cooling of the same.

On page 3, lines 1-4 and 18-20, please amend the paragraphs to read as follows:

The particular advantage of the present invention ~~of~~ is that a precise and homogenous side edge is achieved by the simultaneous cooling of the peripheral surface zones of the synthetic board during the fusion process at the face area.

In addition, the invention relates to a smoothing device for a side edge of a thermoplastic board suitable for carrying out the method ~~with the features of Claim 5~~.

On page 8, please delete lines 18 and 19 as follows:

~~Following, the invention is described in greater detail  
using a drawing, of which~~

On page 9, before line 1, please insert the following  
paragraph and heading:

For a full understanding of the present invention, reference  
should now be made to the following detailed description of  
the preferred embodiments of the invention as illustrated in  
the accompanying drawings.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 9, lines 1-10, please amend the paragraphs to  
read as follows:

Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view of a portion of a  
device for the manufacture of a synthetic board<sub>7</sub>.

Fig. 2 shows a first embodiment of a smoothing device also  
in a perspective view<sub>7</sub>.

Fig. 3 is a front view of a second embodiment of the smoothing device7.

Fig. 4 is a top view of the smoothing device of Figure 37 and.

Figs. 57 and 6 are schematic top views of two embodiments of an edge machining system.

On page 9, after line 10, please insert the following heading and paragraph:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to Figs. 1-6 of the drawings. Identical elements in the various figures are designated with the same reference numerals.

On page 15, after the last line, insert the following paragraph:

There has thus been shown and described a novel method for the production of a thermoplastic board comprising at

least one smooth edge, device therefore, and edge machining  
system which fulfills all the objects and advantages sought  
therefor. Many changes, modifications, variations and other  
uses and applications of the subject invention will,  
however, become apparent to those skilled in the art after  
considering this specification and the accompanying drawings  
which disclose the preferred embodiments thereof. All such  
changes, modifications, variations and other uses and  
applications which do not depart from the spirit and scope  
of the invention are deemed to be covered by the invention,  
which is to be limited only by the claims which follow.